Dr. A.K. Singh, Hon’ble DDG (HS &CS) inaugurated Chrysanthemum Week at ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research, Pune

Dr. A.K. Singh, DDG (HS&CS) visited the research farm of ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research at Pune on 06.12.2019 and inaugurated the Chrysanthemum Week (06.12.2019 to 12.12.2019). ICAR-DFR is organising crop specific weeks in respective cropping seasons to showcase the technologies to the stakeholders for the last three years. Stakeholders including farmers, researchers, traders, nurserymen, ICAR-sister institutes, academia are invited on different days to the research farm to seek valuable inputs. Dr. A.K. Singh keenly interacted with the crop specific scientists to comprehend the research efforts that are being made. He admired the ornamental wealth that being collated by ICAR-DFR in terms or number of roses, chrysanthemum, marigold, speciality flowers, foliage ornamentals and annuals. He examined the promising lines of chrysanthemum (16), tuberose (12) that are developed by ICAR-DFR and enquired about their novelty and utility.

Dr. A.K. Singh also reviewed the research programmes being carried out at ICAR-DFR. Dr. K.V. Prasad, Director, ICAR-DFR explained the research initiatives being taken up in terms of developing novel tuberose varieties that are dwarf, new media compositions to utilise industrial (fly ash and press mud) and agricultural waste (ground nut shells, rice husk, soybean, cotton waste) for the nursery industry in sync with the priorities of the Government of India to convert waste to wealth. He highlighted the mutation breeding work being carried out using electron beam radiation in collaboration with RRCAT, Indore and BARC, Mumbai. He further explained about nanosilver coated lining cloth for flower packing and unique biodegradable protrays and pots being developed in collaboration with ICAR-CIRCOT to reduce the foot print of plastics in nurseries. He also explained about the initiatives taken in vertical gardening, plant diagnostics, collapsible crates for packing flowers, tools and gadgets being developed at ICAR-DFR, Pune. Dr. Singh complimented the scientists for their efforts in building a new institution from scratch and encouraged them to take up more number of external funded projects.
Dr. A.K. Singh enquiring about the uniqueness of the varieties
Dr. A.K. Singh reviewing different varieties and technologies on the anvil at ICAR-DFR